REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-47 are currently pending in this application. Selected claims are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. New claims 29-47 have been added. No new matter is included. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on June 2, 2004.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,318 to Picard. Applicants traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, providing an account database associated with a server, wherein the account database stores at least one of passwords and user IDs corresponding to the plurality of individual messaging accounts, authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user, and accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing secret information to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the secret information includes at least one of the passwords and the user IDs, and wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts. Independent claims 9, 18, and 25 recite similar features. Picard does not disclose these features.

In an exemplary embodiment pertaining to email, the client workstation connects to a proxy server (see the specification at page 6, lines 8-9). The client workstation may transmit to the proxy server an identity of the user on the client workstation, and the proxy server may validate and authorize the user identity (see specification page 6, lines 10-15). The proxy server transmits to each mail server user account name information particular to the user's individual account with each service provider, by looking up ID, password, and associated information in mail registration database (see the specification at page 6, lines 21-24). Thus, a single access request submitted by a user enables access to multiple messaging accounts associated with different service providers corresponding to the user (see specification page 6, lines 12-17 and lines 22-24; Fig. 2).

In contrast, Picard is directed to a system that enables unifying message storage to allow different types of messages or electronic communications such as voicemail, facsimile, e-mail, and video to be stored and accessed on a single system in a single unified multimedia mailbox (see Picard, col. 1, lines 61-66). Specifically, Picard discloses integrating different types of multimedia messages into a single mailbox (see Picard, col. 1, lines 61-66). However, Picard does *not* disclose accessing the *selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing secret information to the selected ones* of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the secret information includes at least one of the passwords and the user IDs, and wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

Furthermore, Picard does not teach or suggest that each of the various multimedia messages are protected by a corresponding password and/or a user ID. As a result, Applicants submit that Picard does *not* disclose wherein the *secret information is predefined for each of the selected ones* of the plurality of individual messaging accounts.

While Picard appears to disclose using a password, the system disclosed in Picard is different than the claimed invention. Picard discloses that the subscriber may enter the password into a login information form. However, this password is merely a

login password for gaining entry to the system and is not disclosed to protect various multimedia messages stored in various individual messaging accounts. In particular, Picard discloses that the server validates the subscriber and synthesizes the subscriber's main messaging page from the contents of the subscriber's message store (see Picard col. 10, lines 46-51). The subscriber's messaging page contains links to each of the subscriber's messages (see Picard col. 10, lines 51-54). Thus, once a subscriber logs into the system disclosed by Picard, the subscriber is able to access *all* of a subscriber's messages that span over several messaging accounts (e.g., voicemail, facsimile, e-mail, and video). Picard does *not* disclose a system that protects each messaging account with a corresponding password and/or user ID. Therefore, Picard does not disclose providing an account database associated with a server, wherein the account database stores at least one of *passwords* and *user IDs* for the plurality of individual messaging accounts. At best, Picard's system stores a *single* password and/or a *single* user ID that, when received, enables access to the entire system. Thus, Picard is deficient, because Picard does not disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Picard does not disclose authorizing access to the server based on authorization information associated with the user *and* accessing the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts by providing secret information to the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts, wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the selected ones of the plurality of individual messaging accounts. At best, Picard's system conducts a *single* authorization/access step at the system level and does not require further authorization for the individual accounts. As a result, Picard is deficient, because Picard does not disclose every feature of the claimed invention.

Since Picard neither discloses nor suggests the invention claimed in independent claims 1, 9, 18, and 25, these claims clearly are not anticipated by Picard. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-8, 10-17, 19-24, 26, 27, and 29-36 are allowable, at least, by virtue of their dependency. For at least the

reasons provided above, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 28 recites, *inter alia*, a storage module, wherein the storage module stores at least one of user IDs and passwords corresponding to the two or more individual messaging accounts for the associated user and an authorization module, wherein the authorization module provides each of the two or more individual messaging accounts with secret information, wherein the secret information includes at least one of the user ID and the password, and wherein the secret information is predefined for each of the two or more messaging accounts. Picard does not disclose these features.

As set forth above, Picard does <u>not</u> disclose protecting two or more messaging accounts with a password and/or a user ID. Additionally, Picard does not disclose a storage module, wherein the storage module stores at least one of user IDs and passwords corresponding to the two or more individual messaging accounts for the associated user. At least for these reasons and the reasons presented in the discussion of claim 1, Applicants submit that Picard is deficient, because Picard does not disclose all the elements of claim 28. Applicants submit that claim 37 is also allowable over Picard, at least, by virtue of its dependency.
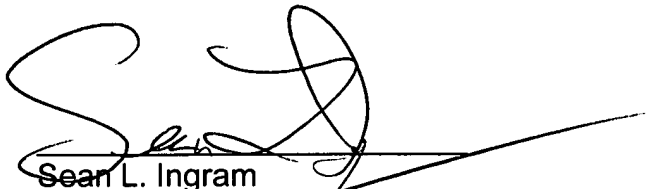
New claims 29-44 has been added to capture features disclosed in the specification, but not previously recited in the claims. Claims 29-40 are also believed to be allowable over Picard, at least, for the same reasons discussed above.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: August 5, 2004   Respectfully submitted,

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